

4/6/09 - Monday, April 6, 2009

**EAU CLAIRE
LANDMARKS COMMISSION**

Meeting of April 6, 2009

Members Present: Jenny Ebert, Ken Ziehr, Katrinka Bourne, Bob Von Haden, John Mann, Sue Nelson

Members Absent: Ken Fulgione

Minutes. The minutes of the March 2, 2009 meeting were approved as written.

1. Discussion and Consideration of Status of Third Ward Historic Landmark District.

The Commission continued their discussion of the status of the Third Ward Historic Landmark District. Pat Ivory discussed the procedure for designation (redesignation) of a local landmark district. It was noted that the procedure differed from the designation of an individual property. Designation of a district, involves a recommendation from the Landmark Commission and then the final action is taken by the City Council. Pat added that the historic district plan would also have to be updated.

The Commission discussed various options regarding the district, such as: making no change, consideration of redesignation of only the properties that had opted out of the district back in 1992, including both the opted out properties, plus those within the National Register District that was enlarged in 2004, and adding only some of the properties added to the National Register District.

Upon discussion, it was the consensus of the Commission that if they were to add some of the National Register properties, that all such properties should be added rather than only those along South Farwell Street. In this way, the National Register District and Local Historic District would have the same boundaries.

ACTION TAKEN: Ken Ziehr moved that the Commission schedule a public hearing in August to consider redesignating the Third Ward Historic District properties that had opted out of the district in 1992 and the properties added to the Third Ward National Register District in 2004. Before that time, the Commission should contact the Third Ward Neighborhood Association and update the historic district plan. Katrinka Bourne seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

2. Update on Landmark Activities and Properties.

A. Discussion of 602 Water Street. The Commission continued their discussion regarding some exterior changes that had been made to 602 Water Street (Ottawa House) without a permit. This is a commercial building and the front windows have been covered with wood. Ken Ziehr, Katrina Bourne, and John Mann provided a summary of their meeting with the building owner, Mr. Charles Vanden Breul.

Mr. Vanden Breul, was present at the meeting and discussed options regarding the building. He noted concerns regarding the cost of opening up the front of the building and concerns about potential vandalism with the breakage of the storefront windows. He added that lighting is poor along this block of Water Street and police surveillance is not as intensive as within the 300 and 400 blocks of Water Street. He discussed one option of opening up the corner portion of the building this summer. However, Commission members noted that this area has been enclosed for a many years and would not address the issue of the front windows covered when the street was reconstructed.

Several design options or alternatives were suggested by the Commission to open up the front window area, provide display areas for merchandize, and provide security for the interior of the store.

The Commission noted that DECI™s Façade Loan Program and Code Compliance Loan Program might be of some assistance in funding the work. The Commission also questioned whether the Historic Preservation Foundation (HPF) might have grant funds available. Pat Kurtenbach from the HPF, was present at the meeting and noted that the HPF did have a grant program, but funds are awarded in April, the next funding cycle would not be for a year.

The Commission asked Mr. Vanden Breul to prepare a timeline and cost estimates for removing the wood panels. It was suggested that funding sources through DECI and the HPF be explored as it appears that funding assistance may be available from these organizations.

B. Discussion Regarding Preservation Month. Jenny Ebert provided an overview of her research regarding the preservation month activity (month of May) in working with the Leader-Telegram is publishing an article regarding the recovery programs enacted back in the 1930s. She indicated that newspaper is interested in working with the Commission on the project. The Commission discussed the project and noted that the articles should focus on existing buildings or projects rather than structures that have been demolished.

Pat Kurtenbach, from the HPF, noted that the HPF is interested in working on a project for Preservation Month. He indicated that the HPF is considering a contest through the Leader-Telegram, similar to the house hunt contest undertaken in recent years. The theme of the contest may feature buildings before and then after remodeling. It was also suggested that some of the properties selected could relate back to the articles that the newspaper would publish related to Jenny™s research.

C. 2009 CLG Grant. Pat Ivory informed the Commission that the City was still waiting to receive the formal grant agreement for the recently announced \$18,000 CLG Grant. Work cannot commence until the grant agreement has been received and approved the City Council.

D. Upcoming Workshops. The Commission discussed two up-coming historic preservation workshops. One is scheduled for April

18th in Fond du Lac and the other is scheduled for May 29-30 in Madison. Both would provide excellent training for Commission members.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned a 5:45 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sue Nelson, Secretary